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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
TOMOYASU NAKAMURA ET AL : EXAMINER: WONG, L.
SERIAL NO: 09/926,027 :
FILED: AUGUST 16, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1761
FOR: MASKING AGENT

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Office Action dated February 13, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendment and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-8.

Please add new Claims 9-16 as follows:

9. (New) An orally ingestible product comprising a material having at least one of an odor and a flavor other than a bitter flavor, and an agent for masking said at least one of an odor and a flavor other than a bitter flavor comprising a nontoxic salt of gluconic acid.

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